

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 OMB-01 AID-05 ACDA-07

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R 251300Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5507

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USLO PEKING

/USUN NEW YORK 5815

USIA WASHDC

USMISSION NATO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MOSCOW 3995

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CH, UR, CG

SUBJECT: SOVIET PRESS RESPONSE TO PRC CHARGE OF SOVIET INVOLVEMENT IN ZAIRE

NATO FOR AMBASSADOR TOON

1. MARCH 25 KRASNAYA ZVEZDA CARRIES ARTICLE BY TASS POLITICAL COLUMNIST V. GONCHAROV WHO DESCRIBES GROWING MILITARY INVOLVEMENT OF NATO COUNTRIES (ESPECIALLY U.S.) IN ZAIRE AND HARSHLY ATTACKS PRC FOR RECENT HSINHUA CHARGES OF SOVIET INVOLVEMENT IN ZAIRIAN EVENTS.

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2. GONCHAROV SAYS U.S. IN ORDER TO PROTECT CAPITAL INVESTMENTS IN SHABA PROVINCE HAS SENT "ONE CONSIGNMENT AFTER ANOTHER" OF ARMS AND AMMUNITION TO ZAIRE. SUCH ACTION BY THE U.S. AND OTHER NATO COUNTRIES, SAYS AUTHOR, HAS BEEN CRITICIZED BY AFRICANS.

3. IN THESE CONDITIONS, HE CONTINUES, IT IS NOT

WITHOUT INTEREST THAT WEST HAS RECEIVED PROPAGANDA
SUPPORT OF PEKING, EXEMPLIFIED BY RECENT HSINHUA
"FABRICATIONS" ABOUT "INVASION OF ZAIRE", "SOVIET
MERCENARY TROOPS" AND SOVIET "LONG-PLANNED ACT FOR
DESTRUCTION OF ZAIRIAN PEOPLE". "THIS IS A MALICIOUS LIE:"
SAYS GONCHAROV.

4. SUCH FABRICATIONS WERE ROUTINE IN "BAND OF
FOUR" DAYS, HE WRITES, BUT NEW LEADERS ARE STICKING TO SAME DIRTY
METHODS. GONCHAROV FINDS TWO-FOLD EXPLANATION FOR THESE
"FANTASTIC ALLEGATIONS": (1) "SOME ONE" IN PEKING COUNTS ON
CURRYING FAVOR WITH WEST BY DEFLECTING ATTENTION OF WORLD
PUBLIC OPINION FROM REAL AND GROWING INVOLVEMENT OF
NATO COUNTRIES IN ZAIRIAN AFFAIRS, AND (2) PEKING
IS TRYING TO WHITEN ITS OWN BAD REPUTATION IN AFRICA CAUSED BY
ITS SUPPORT FOR NATO-SOUTH AFRICAN INTERVENTION IN ANGOLA)
BY BLACKENING REPUTATION OF OTHERS.

5. COMMENT: SOVIETS WOULD NO DOUBT HAVE RESPONDED TO
CHINESE ATTACK IN ABOVE MANNER IN ANY CASE, BUT
THEY MAYBE PARTICULARLY SENSITIVE AT MOMENT DUE
TO PODGORNY TRIP TO TANZANIA, ZAMBIA AND MOZAMBIQUE, AND
SECRETARY'S VISIT TO MOSCOW.
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